

**Strategy: EXPANSION, START-UP AND/OR CAPITAL EXPENSE****Strategy Description**

Recruits new or existing providers to begin to serve or expand preschool services. May assist with planning, licensing and/or certification process for new early learning centers or homes, or provide support to a provider to improve the quality of early learning facilities or programs.

**Strategy Narrative**

The La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council has identified a need to increase the number of children who receive high quality early care and education services in order to improve school readiness.

High quality early care and education programs are strongly linked to both academic and life-skills success among all children, but especially those from families with several risk factors such as low income, low education levels of parents or caregivers, a single parent household, etc.

Regional funding to this strategy will support the start-up and expansion of programming for those children who may not otherwise have access to high quality early care and education due to a lack of licensed and/or certified providers in particular neighborhoods or localities. Start-up activities are needed to support the expansion of preschool programs in communities prioritized by the regional council due to known shortages in access to regulated early learning programs.

Programs will apply and receive a license to provide child care from the Department of Health Services prior to enrolling children to be served through this strategy. Upon becoming licensed, programs will also be enrolled in the Quality First program. The following components will be included:

- Coaching and technical assistance by mentors to plan a new classroom or program site;
- Child care licensing and/or certification fees;
- Facility improvements to equip the setting or renovate/expand an existing site;
- Furniture, supplies, play equipment, etc... to create a quality early learning environment;
- Personnel and employee related expenses to support hiring highly qualified staff.

**Target Population Description**

The target population for this strategy is three-and four year old children in under-served communities in the region with a lack of regulated preschool programs and/or known shortages in access to early learning programs. The regional council has prioritized two communities in La Paz County – Salome and Quartzsite.

Target Service Units	SFY 2013	SFY 2014	SFY 2015
Number of increased slots for participating children	40	40	-
Number of center based providers served	2	2	-
Funding Level	SFY 2013	SFY 2014	SFY 2015
	\$161,800	-	-